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ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

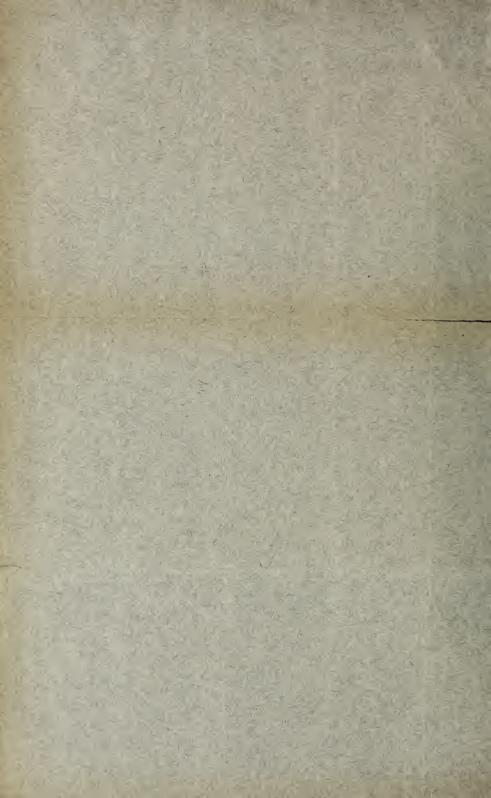
ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH
FOR THE YEAR 1912.

DIPTON

PRINTED BY MASON AND MORDUE, FRONT STRUKT



GENTLEMEN,

I beg to submit to you my First Annual Report with respect to work done under the Public Health Acts, and Factory and Workshops' Act, also with respect to diseases under the Infectious Diseases Act, Vital Statistics, and the Sanitary state of your District generally for the year 1912.

With much of the actual work done during the earlier part of the year I have not had, of course, a first hand acquaintance, owing to the fact that it was on the 8th August last I took up the duties of the office.

The work which was somewhat in abeyance, from reasons known to you, took some little time to bring together again the broken ends of the threads. I am pleased to say that the machinery of the office is now in smooth, working condition, and prompt attention given to all that affects, or is likely to affect detrimentally, the Health of the District.

In this report I have endeavoured to review briefly the year's work from the records in my possession, and trust you will find the health statistics of your District satisfactory.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE DISTRICT.

Pontop Pike, one of the prominent land marks in the County, is within the Urban District of Annfield Plain. It is 1,030 feet above sea level, and is cultivated to the summit On a clear day a magnificent panorama of beautiful country, undulating, round backed hills for the most part, stretches away on all sides before the eye; and in ancient times, if tradition speaks true, this eminence was a recognised "beacon hill," from whose summit fire signals warned the country round about of invasion or threatened danger. From its eastern flank a long, narrow spur extends for some miles, almost reaching the river Tyne. On the ridge of this spur runs the King's highway towards Newcastle and the North. In a ''dimple'' of the Pike, looking towards the west and across the beautiful valley of the Derwent, securely sheltered from the east winds, doses, in the glow of the setting sun, the village of Dipton, a detached portion of your Urban District. Immediately in front, beyond the river, is the extensive forest of Chopwell, the forfeitted estate of the last Ratcliffe of Dilston, better known to history as the Earl of Derwentwater, of tragic memory. From the south-eastern flank of our beacon hill a natural barrier, rampart like in appearance, stretches across the distant end of the Team valley and thus shuts it off from meeting at a right angle the valley of Lanchester. At the narrowest width of this barrier the distance is probably one mile, and on either side the land abruptly falls away into the Valleys. Looking along this natural barrier from the summit of the Pike the surface looks in the main fairly level and is not inaptly called the Plain. The old farm house on the Loud Hill, a shoulder of the Pike, is called Annield House, and, I presume, that in some way the name of our District is associated with this house.

On the fell land near the South Pontop Colliery one meets with the "great divide." Here the infant streamlets part company, some to increase the volume of water in the Smallhope Burn, which ultimately reaches the North Sea through the river Wear, others to form the Kyo Burn, hence to the Tyne to help to float the leviathan ships built upon its banks; and thus the superfluous water of our Urban area takes an infant share in floating to the sea the largest ships of the Navies of the world.

On this natural barrier or rampart, flung as from a Titan's hand from the summit of the Pike to bridge the valley below, is situate the greater portion of the Urban District of Annfield Plain. Its position is therefore elevated, being well up to 1,000 feet above sea level. The climate is, therefore, bracing in summer and naturally somewhat severe in winter, so much so that the snow remains for a considerable time, and sledges are a common means of conveyance.

The mean temperature for the month of December last was 47° F., the highest being 61° F., the lowest 39° F, the mean range was therefore 22°; the rain fall is not unduly great; the exact figures are not in my possession. The prevailing wind is N.E.

The surface soil of the Plain is composed of bog, peat or red clay, and naturally absorbs a considerable amount of moisture. The geological formation underneath being carboniferous, several seams of coal, the Shield Row Seam being very near the surface, forming the Annfield Plain spur or rampart extending from the Pike.

The surface land, within recent years, has been broken up and generally destroyed owing to the constant demand for coal, and the subsidences which have so often occurred has not only made house property insecure from structural injury, but it interferes with the natural drainage of the District. There is always a danger of the artificial drainage systems of our area being damaged and thus, potentially, endangering the health of the community, Leakage of gas, owing to injured pipes from land subsidences, being of a common occurrence.

The population of the Urban District, estimated to June last, is about 17,000, an increase of 4,071 having occurred during the last decennium. The acreage of the District is 3,489, and the total rateable value equal to £57,770.

The only industry in the district is coal mining, and everything and everybody depends upon its prosperity. The year, notwithstanding two stoppages of work during the 12 months owing to strikes, was a fairly prosperous one, and Poor-law relief was not, to my knowledge, required as a result of these.

The people in the District are well fed, in fact better fed than any class of skilled workmen in the Kingdom, and well clad and are, as a class, healthy. The gradual disappearance of the old insanitary, badly ventilated type of house, which was common in the District, must ultimately enhance the health of the community and produce in the minds of the people a higher perception of the laws of health and the duty which they owe to themselves, their children, and the State. There is not a general hospital in our district nor in the near neighbourhood, and severe accidents in the mines, which are of very frequent occurrence, are usually sent by Ambulance to the Royal Infirmary, Newcastle. A Cottage Hospital in or near our District, where accidents could be treated, would be a decided advantage to the mining community.

Summary of, and remarks on Work done in the Inspector of Nuisances' Department during the year 1912.

1. PUBLIC HE	ALTH ACTS.	Number of Informal written Notices by Inspector.	Pormal Notices by	Number of Nuisances abated after Notice.	General Remarks.
	Structural De-	70	none	70	This does not include any work done under The
Schools.	fects	67	,,	67	Housing and T.P. Act,
	Overcrowding	7	,,	7	1909.
Lodging-houses		II	,,	II	Kept under strict super- vision.
Dairies and Milksh	ops	_	-	-	
Cowsheds		5	none	5	
Bakehouses			_		
Slaughter-houses		7	none	7	These are kept under strict supervision.
Ashpits and Privie		95	,,	95	
Deposits of Refuse	and Manure	57	,,	57	
Waterclosets		17	,,	17	
Defective Yard Pa	ving	-	,,	_	A considerable number of defective yards are being dealt with, none completed.
House Defect	tive Traps sconnection from	6	,,	6	
Drainage.	Sewers	-	_	_	
Other	Faults	102	none	102	
Water Supply				_	Ample and wholesome.
Pigsties		5	none	5 38	
Animals Improper	ly¦kept	38	٠,	38	
Offensive Trades		- 1	_		
Smoke Nuisances		- 1			
Other Nuisances		27	none	27	
Т	otals	514		514	

II. WATER, FOOD, AND DRUGS.	Number.	Remarks.
Samples of Water taken for Analysis	none	Water satisfactory.
Seizures of Unwholesome Food	19	These apply to organs of cattle, sheep, and pigs affected with parasitic diseases mainly.
Convictions for exposing or selling Unwholesome		· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·
Food	none none	
,, ,, found Adulterated	—	
III. PRECAUTIONS AGAINST INFECTIOUS DISEASE.		
Lots of Infectious Bedding stoved or destroyed	2	
Houses disinfected after Infectious Disease	67	Houses are systematically disinfected when patients are removed to hospital or convalescent.
Schools do. do	none	·
Prosecutions for exposure of infected persons of things	none	As many as possible removed to hospital. Those nursed at home.
things	none	the necessary precautions taken.
Convictions for do. do	none	J 1
		-
IV. GENERAL. Number of New Houses crected during the year	56	
Number of such Houses occupied during the year		
Ashpit-privies converted into Ash-closets	9	Plans for the conversion of 40
·		Privies into Ash-closets are being laid before the Council at their next meeting.
Do. do. Water-closets	none	
Ash-closets do. do	none	
Do. Ash-closets do	417 1007	
Do. Ash-pit privies do	1367	

DWELLING-HOUSES.—The number of dwelling-houses inspected under the Housing and Town Planning etc. Act 1909, were 282, 139 of these houses are at present being repaired.

Demolition Orders.—Two houses have been demolished at Weston's Buildings, in accordance with demolition orders served upon the owner.

Houses Closed Voluntarily —At SOUTH PONTOP COLLIERY, out of 19 wooden houses in occupation at the commencement of the past year, 16 have been closed and demolished.

DIPTON WOOD HOUSES.—16 of these houses have been closed during the past year, leaving 14 still in occupation.

New Houses.—The number of new houses erected during the past year was 56, 48 of these houses were provided with proper water-closets, the remaining 8 were provided with ash-closets adapted for weekly cleansing, as drainage was not available for the water-carriage system.

Factories.—27 inspections were made to the nine factories. There were no defects found.

Workshops,—75 inspections were made to the 25 Workshops, with the result that five notices were served, viz. three required cleansing, one to abate overcrowding, and one to provide sanitary conveniences.

Cowsheds and Dairies.—Improvements have been made with regard to drainage, light, ventilation, and floors, in some of these places; there are 18 cowsheds which come under the Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops Regulations in force within the District.

Slaughter-houses.—There are nine Slaughter-houses within the District. They are fairly well conducted in compliance with the Bye-Laws. During the year there have been 19 seizures of food unfit for man. These mainly applied to organs of cattle, sheep, and pigs affected with parasitic diseases. The carcase of a sheep that had died, was seized and destroyed.

Water Carriage System.—Where drainage gradients can be satisfactorily negotiated and I see no reason, owing to the natural formation of the land, why this should prove other than amenable to the engineer, the water carriage system should be, if not at once, at least gradually introduced into your District. It would be, ultimately, more economical, and certainly more sanitary, and in every other respect a more convenient method of disposing of the privy middens, the most objectionable feature in the sanitation of our district, and mining districts generally. There is an ample supply of water provided by the Weardale and Consett Water Co., laid on to each house or its curtilage, and this fact at once disposes of the initial difficulty which would arise in introducing the water carriage system into the District. These privy middens are a breeding ground, during the hottest and most dangerous season of the year, for the house-fly, and were it only to prevent the plague of diptera during these months, and thus indirectly the evil consequences which result through their agency, would in itself be an advantage to the health and comfort of the District.

Overcrowding.—During the year 50 new houses have been occupied, other new buildings are being built by private enterprise, and in the course of a few months we hope to see 60 new houses, under the Housing of the Working Classes Act, 1890, put into the hands of the builders by your Council. This will surely assist materially in relieving the congestion which has existed, more or less, in your District for some time.

We do not now, I am bound to admit, meet with so many cases of gross overcrowding in your District as at one time existed. Strict supervision with respect to this evil is always, however, necessary on the part of your Officers in order to prevent any re-currence of it in our midst. Hitherto the excuse always was, and that there certainly was some foundation for it, that a scarcity of houses existed in the area, and that the people had to be housed somewhere or someway. There is less excuse now on that score than ever, and in the near future, by reason of the scheme now put into operation by your Council, the reason for such an excuse, should it be repeated, will have vanished utterly. The moral, therefore, is that in the future gross overcrowding, if detected, will not be looked upon with the same leniency as in the past.

Notifiable Diseases.

116 cases of notifiable diseases were reported for the year, consisting of the following, viz:

42 Scarlatina. of

18 of Diphtheria.

Erysipelas. 14 of

10 of Enteric Fever. 1 of

Puerperal Septicaemia. Pulmonary Tuberculosis. 31 of

47 of the above cases, Pulmonary Tuberculosis excluded, were removed to the Isolation Hospital at Tanfield, equal to 55.3%, the remaining cases were not in a condition to be removed and were properly isolated at home.

Phthisis Pulmonalis.—Of the 31 cases of the above disease notified during the year, 17 were sent either for treatment or isolation to Maiden Law Sanatorium, the others, some of whom were able to walk about, were duly cautioned with respect to the danger to the public and their own immediate friends from the droplets of infected mucous expelled during the act of coughing and spitting upon the streets, floors or other places. Periodic visits were made to their homes, leaflets containing instructions left, and an eye kept upon them to see that all necessary precautions were taken against the dissemination of the disease.

The procedure in practice with respect to the method of admission to the Sanatorium is as follows;-

In the first instance the Medical Practitioner attending the patient fills in an admission form after examination, with particulars of the patient's condition, this is again counter signed, if the patient is considered a suitable case for treatment, by the M.O.H. of the District in which the patient resides, or if the Poor Law Guardians are responsible for payment, by the District Medical Officer.

This method works to the satisfaction of everyone concerned.

Now that the Sanatorium is to be transferred to the County Authorities, for the treatment of Tuberculosis under the National Insurance Scheme, the method of admission will be altered, all cases for admission, I understand, will, when arrangements are completed, be classified, recommended and officially passed on for treatment by the Tuberculosis Officer in charge of the Dispensary area of which we form a part, 16 of such areas having been mapped out for the whole administrative county.

It is satisfactory to note that the Maiden Law Sanatorium was among the first, if not the actual first, unused Small Pox Hospital utilized for the treatment of Tuberculosis and is looked upon as a good type of the small Sanatoria in the country by those interested in the open air treatment of the disease.

Scarlatina.—42 cases of the above disease were reported, 28 of which were removed to Hospital. 24 of these occurred in the parish of Kyo, 7 in Collierley, and 9 in Greencroft Within, thus showing that the disease in proportion to population was more prevalent in the parish of Kyo than in the other two. The probable explanation is, that the population is more congested in this parish, also that there are four Schools situate in this parish as compared with one in each of the others. 13 cases were notified in the month of August, 6 in each March and November, and 5 in October. This corresponds with the usual distribution of the disease over the months of the year.

There were no deaths from this disease.

Diphtheria.—18 cases of the above diseas: were reported, 12 of which were removed to Hospital; 9 occurred in Kyo parish, 7 in Collierley, and 1 in Greencroft Within. The disease was not confined to one area more than another, and was distributed evenly over the months of the year. Two deaths occurred from the disease.

Enteric Fever.—10 cases were notified as against 13 in the previous year. Collierley parish was responsible for 7 cases and Kyo for 3, the Village of Dipton being responsible for half the number notified. 7 cases were removed to Hospital. 3 deaths occurred from the disease.

Every house from which an infectious disease is notified is, on the removal of the patient to Hospital or convalescent from the disease, thoroughly disinfected by spraying with a solution of Formalin.

Non-Notifiable Infectious Diseases.

Measles.—The most serious epidemic was in the months of November and December, Broncho-pneumonia, of a serious character, supervening in many instances. The epidemic seemed to have originated in West Kyo and soon spread to all parts of the District. Four deaths occurred from the disease. Measles was also indirectly responsible for deaths registered under one or other of the respiratory diseases.

Whooping Cough.—Cases of this disease were met with all through the year, but it never assumed an epidemic form. Four deaths occurred from the disease.

Diarrhoea and Epidemic Enteritis.—7 deaths were recorded under the above heading during the year, only 1 of which was in an infant under 1 year of age.

This year was remarkably free from the usual Autumnal Infantile Diseases, thus conclusively proving that the climatic conditions are accountable for much of the epidemic diarrhoea that occurs amongst the children in the hot weather.

Bacteriological Examinations—The following table gives particulars of the specimens sent in by medical practitioners in the District for examination during the year in accordance with the arrangements made between the C.C. and the Durham C. of Medicine.

		Number of Specimens	RESULTS.				
		Submitted.	Positive.	Negative.	Inconclusive.		
Enteric Fever Phthisis (sputum)		3 6	I	2 5	0 0		
	Totals	9	2	7	0		

Bacteriological examination of blood, sputum and excretions of patients is of the greatest value in clearing up the diagnosis of doubtful cases of certain infectious diseases.

Vital Statistics.

During the past year 621 births and 179 deaths were registered, the former giving a rate equivalent to 36.5 and the latter 10.5 per annum per 1,000, estimating the population at 17,000 to the end of June. The birth rate is thus above, and the death rate below the county average. This is most satisfactory.

Infantile Mortality is also much below that of the county average, 73.6 per 1,000 births being the rate this year as compared with 186.8 the previous year.

46 deaths under one year of age were recorded as compared with 102 for the previous year, 26 of these being due to Congenital Debility and Malformation, including Premature birth. 35 deaths were due to Respiratory diseases. Violent deaths, excluding Suicides, accounted for seven, and Tuberculous, pulmonary and other, diseases claimed 22. 13 deaths were due to Infectious diseases.

The following Table gives the averages of births and deaths for the County in comparison with those of the District.

						County.	Annfield Plain
Birth-rate					/		-6 -
				• •	(per 1000 population)	31.1	36.5
Death-rate'					,,	13.6	10.5
Zymotic death-	rate				1	1.38	1.18
Infantile Morta	lity-rate				(per 1000 births)	106	73.6
Small Pox					(per 1000 population)	0.001	nil
Scarlet Fever					21	0.10	nil
Diphtheria and	Membrai	ious Cro	up		,.	0.15	0.11
"Fever" (Ent	eric and (Continue	d)		2.4	0.06	0.18
Measles					12	0.52	0.23
Whooping Coug	gh				.,	0.27	0.23
Diarrhœa .					**	0.27	0.41
Phthisis					•,	0.90	0.77
Other Tubercul	ar Diseas	es				0.49	0.53
Acute Respirate	ory Disea	ses				2.18	2.06

For detailed particulars, see Government Schedules attached.

I remain, Gentlemen,

Your Obedient Servant.

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., Etc.

To the ANNFIELD PLAIN URBAN DISTRICT COUNCIL.

Table 1.

Vital Statistics of Whole District during 1912 and previous Years.

VEAM. Population estimated to estimated to software. Next. Tender indiced conditions of cach variety. Tender indiced conditions of cach variety. Next. Tender indiced conditions of cach variety. Next. Probabilities of cach variety. Next. Next. Probabilities of cach variety. At all Ages.
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Population estimated to middle of each Vear. Population widdle of each Vear. Population 2
Population estimated to middle of each Year. 2 15.200 15.200 16.200 16.200 16.300 16,900
YEAR. 1 1 1907 1909 1910 1911

Area of District in acres (land and inland water) 3489; Total Population at all ages 16,552; Number of inhabited houses 3,157; Average number of persons per house 5; At Census. 1911 (cf. Census, Vol. V.)

Table II.

Cases of Infectious Disease notified during the year 1912.

	Total cases Removed	Hospital.	12			28	7		21	64
D IN	3	Collierley. Greencroft. (within)	н		н	6			9	19
TOTAL CASES NOTIFIED IN EACH PARISH.	61	Collierley.	7		∞	7	7	н	∞	37
CASE	1	Kyo.	6		7	36	63		17	09
		65 and upwards.	61		61		1			8
		45 and under 65 years.	4		4		н		ıc	10
sp.		25 and under 45 years.	C1		10	н	61		71	27
ES NOTIFII	-Years.	15 and under 25 years.	I		н	I	ю	Н	∞	15
NUMBER OF CASES NOTIFIED.	At Ages—Years.	5 and under 15 years.	6		н	23	н		н	35
NUNB			and under 5 years.	9		н	91	61		
-		At all Ages, Under I. and under 5 years.				н				-
		At all Ages.	r.S		14	24	01	н	31	116
	NOTIFIABLE DISEASE.		Diphtheria (including Wembranous croun)	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·	Erysipelas	Scarlet Fever	Enteric Fever	Puerperal Fever	Pulmonary Tuberculosis	Totals

Isolation Hospital at Tanfield, Sanatorum at Maiden Law, Lanchester joint Hospital Board.

Table III.

Causes of, and Ages at Death during the Year 1912.

	Total Deaths whether of Residents	of Non Residents' in Institutions in the District.	11			
		65 and up wards.	10	33 H	н н н 883 н н н 7 н	34
	r without	45 and under 65 years.	6	30	m ∞ m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m m	30
	rring within o	25 and under 45 years.	8	23 I	н ин40 мн мн н гн	24
	whether oceu	15 and under 25 years.	7	7	4 . н и	7
	Nett Deaths at the subjoined ages of "Residents" whether occurring within or without the District,	5 and under 15 years.	9	4	н нн н	4
,	ned ages of "	2 and under 5 years.	ıc	II	чанан н нн н	11
	at the subjoi	1 and under 2 years.	4	15	н на адна	15
	Nett Deaths	Under I year	8	46	ню н он н4юнн — б нн	46
		All ages.	61	169	844888888888844 8 8 7 5 8	171
		CAUSIS OF DRATH.		All Causes (Certified	Enteric Fever Measles Whoping Cough Dipthera and Croup Influenz Puthisis (Pulmonary Tuberculosis) Tuberculous Maningitis Other Tuberculous Discases Cancer. malignant discase Organic Heart Discase Bronchitis Pheumonia (all forms) Other discases of respiratory organs Discribed and Entertiis Nephritis and Bright's Discase Putperal Fever Other zecidents and diseases of Pregnancy and Parturition Congenital Deblifty and Malformation, including Pernature Birth Violent Deaths, excluding Suicide Other Defined Discases Discasses ill-defined or unknown	

Table IV.

Annfield Plain Urban District.

Infant Mortality.

1912. Nett Deaths from stated causes at various Ages under 1 Year of Age.

Total Deaths under 1 year.	24 4	нии ф финн ф ф Ф Ф и	46
9 months & nuder 12 months.	2 H	нн н	က
6 months & under 9 months.	7	нен но н	7
3 months & undet 6 nonths.	2 7	ааннн н	6
4 weeks & under 3 months.	2	н н н н	r.
Total under 4 weeks.	21	н 4000	22
3 + neeks.	0	61	8
2-3 wecks,	01	н	2
1 2 weeks.	61	a	7
Under I week.	15 I	4 m∞ H	16
CAUSE OF DEATH.	All Causes (Certified	Measles Whooping-Cough Tuberculous Memigitis Convulsions Bronchitis Plucamonia (all forms) Diarrheca Syphilis Atelectasis Congenital Malformations Premature Birth Atrophy, Debility and Marasmus Other Causes	

Nett Births in the year; legitimate 605, illegitimate 20. Nett Deaths in the year of legitimate infants 43, illegitimate infants 3.

2nd February, 1913.

W. M. MORISON. Medical Officer of Health.

1.—Inspection of Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

Including Inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors or Inspectors of Nusiances.

/		Number of	
Premises. (1)	Inspections. (2)	Written Notices. (3)	Prosecutions.
Factories (Including Factory Laundries)— Workshops (Including Workshop Laundries) Workplaces	 ² 7 75	none 5	none ,,
Total	 102	5	none

2.—Defects Found in Factories, Workshops and Workplaces.

			Number		
Particular	rs.	Found.	Remedied.	Referred to H.M. Inspector, (4)	
Nuisances under the Public He	alth Acts —				
		3	3	none —	none —
Want of Drainage of Floors			I	none	none —
Other Nuisances Sanitary accommodation	insufficient unsuitable or defective	I	I	none	none
Samuely accommodation	not separate for sexes	_			
		5	5		_

3.-Registered Workshops.

Worksl	Number.					
	(1)				 (2)
Tailoring	 					 3
Millinery	 					 2
Shoemaking	 					 4
Blacksmiths	 					 3
Joinery	 					 5
Saddlery	 					 I
Retail Bakehouses	 					 7
	Т	otal num	ber of Wo	rkshops o	on Register	 25

-

5.—Other Matters.

Class.	Number. (2)
Matters notified to H.M. Inspector of Factories:— Failure to affix Abstract of the Factory and Workshop Act (s 133)	J
the Factory and Workshop Act (s. 5) Reports(of action taken)sent to H.M. Inspector Other	3
Underground Bakehouses (s. 101) :— Certificates granted during the year	

W. M. MORISON, D.P.H., etc.

Medical Officer of Health.

February, 1913.